AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently amended) A method comprising:

automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device to a server;

automatically querying if the shared resource device is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource device;

applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the shared resource device; and

if the share indicator is stored separate from the shared resource device, automatically creating a share file for the share indicator at the server that enables identification of the shared resource device, and automatically allocating sharing of the shared resource device.

2. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 wherein querying further comprises:
determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource device; and
determining if a share file is in the share directory.

3. (Original) The method of Claim 2 wherein queuing further comprises:
determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory; and
validating a checksum in the checksum file.

4. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:
creating a share indicator on the shared resource device if the share indicator is not present.

5. (Currently amended) The method of Claim 4 wherein creating comprises:
creating a share directory on the shared resource device; and
creating a share file in the share directory.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5 wherein creating further comprises:
creating a checksum file in the share directory; and
writing a checksum in the checksum file.

7. (Currently amended) A computer readable storage media containing executable computer program instructions which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method comprising:

automatically detecting attachment of a shared resource device to a server;

automatically querying if the shared resource device is associated with a share indicator stored at the shared resource device;

applying share allocation defined by the share indicator if the share indicator is present at the shared resource device; and

if the share indicator is stored separate from the shared resource device, automatically creating a share file for the share indicator at the server that enables identification of the shared resource device, and automatically allocating sharing of the shared resource device.

8. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage media of Claim 7 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

determining if a share directory is present on the shared resource device; and

determining if a share file is in the share directory.

9. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 8 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

determining if a checksum file exists in the share directory; and

validating a checksum in the checksum file.

10. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage media of Claim 7 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a share indicator on the shared resource device if the share indicator is not present.

11. (Currently amended) The computer readable storage media of Claim 10 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a share directory on the shared resource device; and creating a share file in the share directory.

12. (Original) The computer readable storage media of Claim 11 which when executed cause a digital processing system to perform a method further comprising:

creating a checksum file in the share directory; and

writing a checksum in the checksum file.

13. (Currently amended) A system comprising:

a processor;

a non-volatile storage unit coupled to the processor, the non-volatile storage unit to store a descriptor table having an entry identifying share allocation for a known storage free device; and

a memory coupled to the processor to store a shared resource device table to identify share allocation of shared devices coupled to the system, wherein if an unknown storage free device is coupled to the system, the processor automatically creates a share file in the shared resource device table that enables identification and automatically allocates sharing of the unknown storage free device.

14. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:

a writable shared resource device coupled to the processor, the writable shared resource device containing a share directory.

15. (Original) The system of Claim 14 wherein the share directory contains:

a share file; and

a check sum file.

16. (Original) The system of Claim 13 wherein the processor ages out the entry if the known device is not present for a period of time.

17. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:

a read only shared resource device wherein the processor detects connection of the read only shared resource device and automatically adds an entry to the descriptor table responsive to the connection.

18. (Currently amended) The system of Claim 13 further comprising:

a writable shared resource device wherein the processor detects connection of the writable shared resource device and automatically adds an entry to the shared resource device table responsive to the connection.

19. (Previously presented) A method comprising:

maintaining a descriptor table on a server in a non-volatile memory for a plurality of known devices;

detecting attachment of a device to the server;

determining if the device is one of the plurality of known devices;

applying a share allocation from the descriptor table upon attachment if the device is one of the plurality of known devices; and

if the device is determined to be an unknown device, automatically creating a share indicator on the unknown device and a corresponding share entry in the descriptor table that enables identification and automatically allocating sharing of the unknown device.

20. (Original) The method of Claim 19 further comprising:

aging out entries from the descriptor table after a corresponding known device has been detached for a period of time.